

WFO Display of Experimental Ceiling Forecast Graphic

2/11/05

Part I - Mission Connection

a. Description of Product - The Experimental Ceiling Forecast Graphic is a web-based presentation of digital ceiling forecast data originating from local Weather Forecast Office (WFO) digital databases. The WFO digital forecast data are uploaded to a regional web server. These graphic images display ceilings from the time of issuance out to 24 hours.

b. Purpose - The Ceiling Forecast Graphic is a means to exploit technology to the fullest in a convenient and useful form to best meet aviation customer and partner needs. The Ceiling Forecast Graphic forecasts fulfill additional NWS objectives for improving the accessibility and availability of aviation weather information to the public. In support of the mission described in the *National Weather Service Strategic Plan for FY2005 - FY 2010*, the Experimental Ceiling Forecast Graphic is a subset of a "...national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community."

c. Intended Audience - The audience is any aviation customer in the WFO forecast area who would like access to graphically depicted ceiling information.

d. Presentation Method - The data are presented as web-based graphic images. The data are displayed in a WFO Mount Holly's AFI (Areal Forecast Interface) software package. The AFI software display functions make the standardization of web graphics possible for a WFO's geographic area of responsibility. Figure 1 shows an example of the Experimental Ceiling Forecast Graphic. Ceiling categories are defined at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/images/afi/definepredhgt.html>.

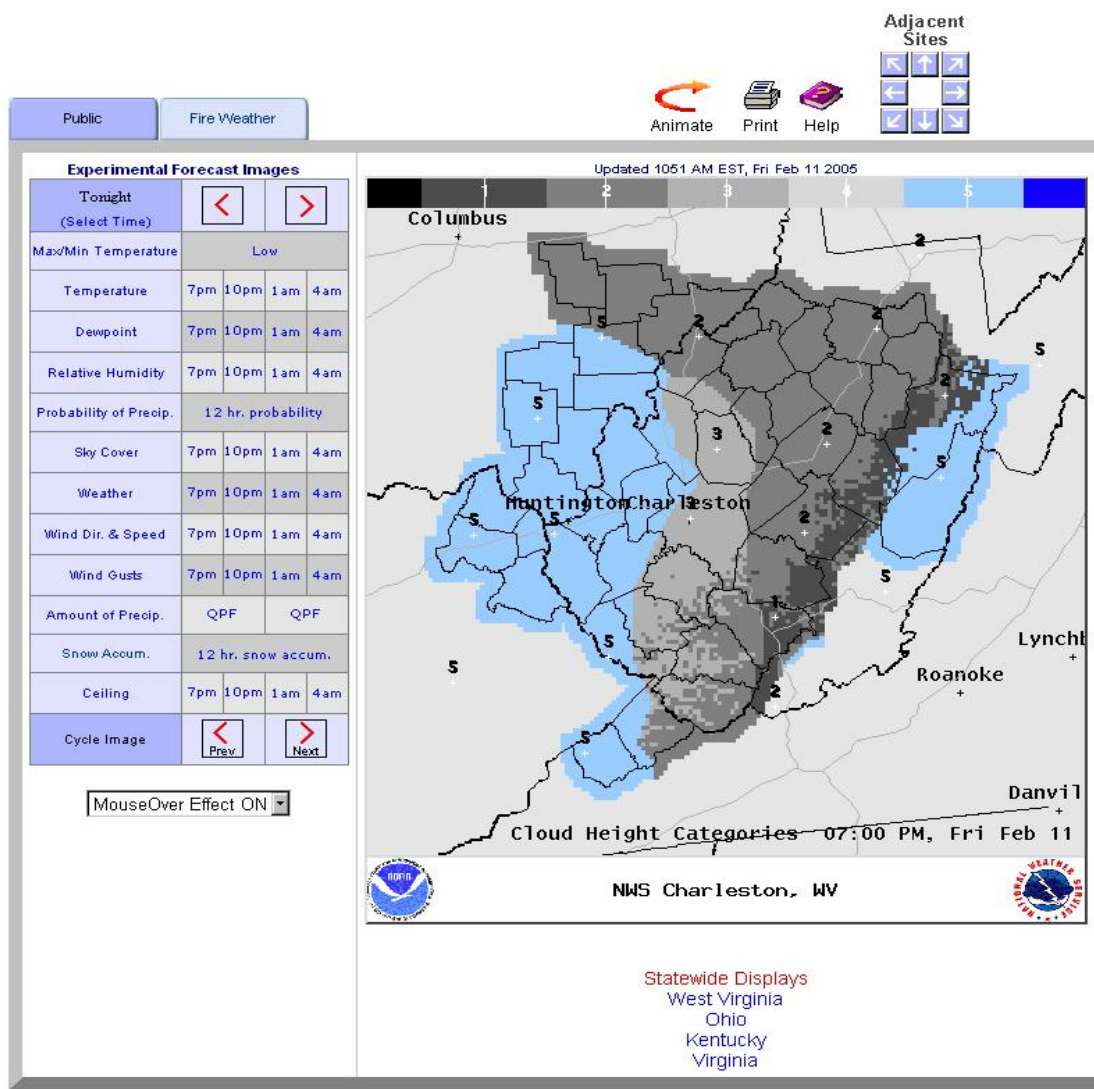


Figure 1

e. Feedback Mechanism - You may email comments and questions to the WFO webmaster or the Eastern Regional Aviation Meteorologist (Jason.Franklin@noaa.gov), or by traditional mail:

Regional Aviation Meteorologist, W/ER1x2
National Weather Service
Eastern Region Headquarters
630 Johnson Avenue, Suite 202
Bohemia, New York 11716

Part II - Technical Description

a. Format & Science Basis - This product was developed to provide customers enhanced ceiling information in digital form out to 24 hours. The graphics are created in GFE using standard editing procedures with a 5 km resolution.

b. Product Availability - WFO web-based ceiling graphics within the AFI program are continuously available on local WFO web pages. Forecast grids are revised at the local WFOs on an as-needed basis.

c. Other Details - Forecast output from this experimental digital product is not intended to substitute for the official Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF) or Transcribed Weather Broadcast (TWEB) text product. Rather, it is to be used as a supplement to the traditional products by users wishing to obtain more detailed ceiling information. Ceilings are defined in FAA Order 7900.5B, Chapter 12, Section 2.